

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OPORTO 00045 241839Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 786

INFO MEMBASSY LISBON 279

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ECON, PO

SUBJECT: DROUGHT THREATENS THE NORTH

1. WHILE PORTUGAL HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH POLITICAL/MILITARY MANEUVERING AND ECONOMICS ON A GRAND SCALE, LITTLE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE DROUGHT THAT THREATENS THE NORTH. NO RAIN HAS FALLEN IN OPORTO SINCE DEC 7, NOR DO WEATHER FORECASTERS SEE PROSPECTS FOR RAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. JUDGING FROM CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH FARMERS IN LAST FEW DAYS, PASTURE LANDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN EFFECTED CAUSING SOME DROP-OFF IN DAIRY PRODUCTION. IF THERE IS NO RAIN WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS, SPRING PRODUCTION CROP WILL BE SERIOUSLY REDUCED.

3. WITH COUNTRY ALREADY EXPERIENCING FOOD SHORTAGES IN MANY AREAS, A DROUGHT IN THE NORTH, WHICH THREATENS TO FURTHER CURTAIL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, COULD BE LITTLE SHORT OF CATASTROPHIC.

PENNER

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